Liquor supply to armed forces

1045. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies stopped supplies of liquor to armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure uninterrupted supply to liquor to armed forces particularly those posted in forward areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of answer at (a) above.

Acquisition of warships from Russia

1046. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to acquire three warships from Russia; and

(b) if so, the date of delivery of these ships to India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two ships have already been delivered and third is likely to be delivered by September, 2003.

Performance of the recent test firing of various missiles

1047. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many test firing of various types of missiles have taken place in this year;

(b) what is the level of success of these missile testing;

(c) what type of missiles are being inducted into the armed forces after successful trials; and

(d) the total estimated cost involved in this missile testing programme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Twenty flight tests have been carried out from 1st January, 2003— 30th June, 2003 of all 7 types of missiles, including Agni-I and Brahmos.

(b) All the 20 flight tests have met the mission objectives set for them.

(c) Prithvi Army version is already inducted into Service. Prithvi Air Force version, Dhanush Naval version and Agni I & II are under induction phase.

(d) An expenditure of about Rs. 75 crore has been incurred on the above flight testing. This expenditure includes the cost of the missile also.

Weapon locating Radar

1048. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to procure Weapon Locating Radars (WLR);

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) whether any step has also been taken to produce WLR indigenously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Twelve Weapon Locating Radars (WLR) were contracted with the US Government in 2002. Delivery of these WLRs will commence from September, 2004. In addition, two WLRs were also contracted on lease basis and these two WLRs have already arrived in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.